Speaking Notes

for

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Good morning and thank you to everyone joining us for this briefing today. My name is Dominic Rochon and I am the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, National and Cyber Security Branch, with Public Safety Canada.

As the Prime Minister announced yesterday, the Government of Canada's top priority remains keeping people and communities safe, and protecting jobs, trade, and our economy.

The federal government remains engaged with provinces and municipalities to get the current situation under control and end the ongoing illegal blockades and occupations taking place across the country.

All Canadians should feel safe in their communities, and unfortunately, recent unlawful protests have made feeling unsafe a reality in several Canadian cities these past few weeks.

Today I will take a few moments to discuss the *Emergencies Act*, and provide some examples of how the Federal Government may choose to apply the authorities provided under this Act.

I should begin by clarifying that the *Emergencies Act* is a measure of last resort, and can provide additional temporary

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authorities, and clarity, to law enforcement agencies to help them act swiftly to end these unlawful protests.

Invoking the *Emergencies Act* is a significant step, one that will help ensure that law enforcement across Canada have broad and clear authority to protect public safety, ensure our borders remain open, and safeguard our national security.

It is also a clear message to those who may decide to participate in, or support, these illegal protests. Interfering with critical infrastructure or impacting the public's safety will bring about consequences; including potential fines and imprisonment.

These measures under the *Emergencies Act* will supplement existing provincial and territorial measures, and assist the RCMP in becoming efficiently integrated into the operations of local police of jurisdiction. Provinces and territories retain their authority for the administration of justice and policing within their jurisdictions.

It is important to underscore that invoking the *Emergencies Act* does not give the federal government the authority to direct the police services of any other jurisdiction.

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Specifically, the measures in force under the *Emergencies Act* clearly communicate new, but temporary, prohibitions for:

- Public assemblies that are expected to affect the movement and safety of people and goods, interfere with trade, or affect the functioning of critical infrastructure;

- Bringing minor children, under the age of 18 years, to participate in or even near an illegal assembly; and,

In addition, these measures extend to people who would support these illegal assemblies, and prohibit:

- Travelling to Canada with the intention of participating in these illegal assemblies, or to provide support to the people involved in them.

- People travelling to and from illegal assemblies with the intention of participating; and,

- Providing support, like equipment and fuel, to those participating in illegal assemblies, or asking for supports from others.

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The measures clearly designate areas, including airports, ports, truck depots, utilities, power generation, hospitals, trade corridors and international crossing, as protected, and clarifies that law enforcement may protect these areas and the area surrounding them.

As an example, we have witnessed "slow rolls" by some motorists intent on impeding the free flow of traffic on some roadways. Such actions are prohibited, the same way blocking traffic around an airport is prohibited.

And in response to feedback from those on the ground, these measures provide the authority for the Minister of Public Safety and the Commissioner of the RCMP, or their delegates, to requisition and compel the provision of essential services, like tow trucks needed to support local law enforcement efforts, with fair compensation for these services.

Furthermore, all persons, including Canadians, permanent residents, and foreign nationals must not participate, travel to, or facilitate in any way, prohibited demonstrations that breach the peace through serious disruptions in the movement of goods and people; interfere with trade or with critical infrastructure; or support the threat, or use, of serious violence against persons or property.

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If they do, there will be serious consequences:

- Penalties include fines up to $5,000, and/or imprisonment up to 5 years

- Foreign nationals can be denied boarding prior to their departure for Canada, and will be denied entry at a port of entry

- Temporary residents could face inadmissibility under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and removal from Canada, with a 1 year ban on re-entry

- If a temporary resident is convicted on indictment for not complying, they can be found criminally inadmissible and deported while being subject to a lifetime ban on re-entry to Canada.

As the Deputy Prime Minister noted in her address yesterday, banks and financial institutions are already obligated to report to the financial transactions and reports analysis centre of Canada or FINTRAC. Going forward, all crowdfunding platforms and the payment service providers they use must register with FINTRAC and must report large and suspicious transactions to FINTRAC.

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This will help mitigate the risk that these platforms receive illicit funds, increase the quality and quantity of intelligence received by FINTRAC, and make more information available to support investigations by law enforcement into these illegal blockades.

These measures are in force today.

While some Canadians may wonder about the deployment of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) broadly, their involvement is not being considered at this time. Jurisdictions have the ability to request assistance from the CAF on a case by case basis, and those requests will be considered and dealt with swiftly.

Lastly, any declaration under the *Emergencies Act* must be confirmed by both the House of Commons and the Senate within timelines set out in the Act. Any steps taken by the Government under the *Emergencies Act* must be consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and must be reasonable and proportional to the risks to the public health and safety of Canadians.

That said, we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect our country and our interests, and keep Canadians safe here at home.
Thank you.

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